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## Kirkland — City planning meeting input for 8 June 2013

Three topics that will improve Kirkland:

1. Include a swimming pool as part of the new Juanita High School.
2. Remove Professional Panhandlers.
3. Widen the corner of 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 145<sup>th</sup> Street NE.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Slyfield

### 1. Juanita High School Pool

Current plans to replace Juanita High School do not include a swimming pool. This is understandable from a strictly cost-cutting point of view. However, this is very short sighted.

Providing our citizens with an affordable opportunity to learn how to swim, and to continue swimming as a competitive sport, life-time fitness activity, and social - recreational opportunity is worth the cost of building and more importantly, maintaining a full-sized swimming pool at tax-payer's expense. Users should be expected to pay their fair-share, but not the full cost plus profit taking by a commercial company.

**Learning to swim is a critical life skill.** Non-swimmers live in fear of drowning. Even if they are ignorant of the consequences of falling in, they have a degraded life-style without the pleasures of enjoying aquatic activities. If insurance companies were to share their proprietary actuarial tables of who lives and who dies after they fall in the water, you can bet that the non-swimmers end up dead a lot more often than those who can swim.

**Swim lessons.** The Juanita HS Pool provides 250 elementary school kids with swim lessons every month. This is a very valuable 'life insurance' benefit to our community, as well as their families and the children themselves. Adults who never learned to swim, or would like to improve their skills should be encouraged to pursue swimming lessons at the Juanita HS pool.

**Competitive swimmers.** Unfortunately, too many decision makers look at people who have chosen to become really serious about using a community resource as leeches on society. This includes our school and Masters Programs. LWSD and NSD swim teams use the Juanita HS Pool. Removal of the pool will most likely mean cancelation of these programs. Master's program participants are adults, who have chosen to make swimming their 'life-time' sport. If you look at their level of fitness compared to the

general population, you should notice that they are much more fit and in better health than most all other citizens. This choice can be encouraged by providing an economical choice rather than paying a lot more at a commercial "Health Club" pool.

**Fitness 'lap' swimmers.** Such as my wife and I use the Juanita High School pool 2 to 4 times a month as part of our personal fitness program. We are not as fast as the masters, but we are in the water, getting a good work out. Swimming complements our other activities because we can not run as often as we used to, if at all.

**Water Aerobics** and other therapy programs use the Juanita HS pool. This is a very good way for people who are obese, or have joint or other mobility issues to make progress on their road to recovery.

**Community physical fitness and activates.** Just getting in the water a couple of times a year is more than most citizens who are non-Master or fitness swimmers will ever do. Having a community resource like the Juanita HS pool allows them to have the option of this choice.

Less than friendly "**Wave Aquatics**" management. The restrictive hours of lap and open swimming times have reduced my wife's ability to get to the pool. She used to swim in the mornings before going to work. With the current schedule of not allowing fitness swimmers until 7am, she can no longer do this. The lifeguards have been very pleasant and helpful. I hope that the less than pleasant demeanor of Becca the pool manager, has not been part of the LWSD's decision process to eliminate the pool. Perhaps if we had a more welcoming and user-friendly pool management, we'd have more people taking advantage of this valuable local resource.

**False economies.** Short-sighted maintenance decisions have ruined the pool at Saint Edwards State park, the Bothell Forward Thrust pool, and the Sorenson pool in the old Woodinville School building. Maintenance of the pool in the new school buildings needs to be a major financial consideration.

**Comparative cost** and quality of commercial swimming pools. There are several commercial pools in the area. They tend to be shorter than the standard 25 yard length and cost a lot more per visit to use. Also their pricing usually involves an up-front initiation fee and daily use fees.

**Will we engage in "rent seeking behavior" or provide a needed social service?** We currently pay \$37 for a 10-swim punch card. This is a good deal. Even if it was \$5/swim, we'd still come. But if you are interested in seeing just how much the market will bear, you will kill the goose that lays the golden egg. May I propose that our city make an investment in encouraging people to take care of their bodies? How much more do we improve our community, and society, because we have a base level of aerobic fitness or we don't drown if we just fell off the pier?

## **2. Professional Panhandlers.**

Who are these guys? For the last several years, the same creepy people have been hanging out on the corners of 116<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 124<sup>th</sup> Street. **Who are their handlers?** Perhaps we can get their handlers to

use them in a less than **'in your face'** method of generating revenue, other than blighting our community? The wealth creating citizens who pay taxes have already funded multiple social services for people who want to help themselves. Low-skill jobs are available for those willing to do them. Just ask the day-laborers hanging out at the Home Depot parking lot. At least they are willing to turn to and make it happen.

**3. Pave the corner of 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 145<sup>th</sup> Street NE.**

This corner needs to be widened and re-paved. I commute on my bike several times a week. When returning home, I come south on 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Then turn east on 145<sup>th</sup> Street at the Four Corner Church. The South East quadrant of that intersection is very narrow, there is no shoulder, and the pavement is very rough. Would it be possible to re-pave this corner and widen the east bound section of 145<sup>th</sup> Street by a couple of feet? This would give cyclists a little more of a chance to get out of the way of motorized vehicular traffic.

Thank you for your consideration.



## PROS PLAN COMMENTS (Received May – June 2013)

**From:** Kristin Bockius  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 06, 2013 7:33 PM  
**To:** Kirkland2035  
**Subject:** Dog Parks!

Kirkland needs more dog parks! I used to live in Kirkland but I sure would visit Kirkland more if I could bring my dog to enjoy off-leash parks. In fact, I still drive in to take him to Jasper's almost every weekend!

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**From:** Doraine  
**Sent:** Friday, June 07, 2013 12:14 AM  
**To:** Kirkland2035  
**Subject:** Need more areas for dog recreation

Hello,

Please accept this input for consideration as Kirkland plans for future expansion. We need:

- More off-leash trails. My dog responds to voice control, and leashes on steep trails can present a potential hazard to other dogs and hikers when snagged or tangled. Also, dogs really don't get adequate exercise when forced to travel only at the walking speed of the owner. Dogs need to run.
- More beach and water access. Swimming (and fetching in water) is an excellent way to exercise dogs. Also off-leash is preferred, as it makes me very nervous to try and swim a dog on leash when I don't swim and leashes can get snagged on submerged obstacles. I refuse to endanger my dog in this way, and hope the city can employ some common sense in allowing off-leash water access. Fetching sticks and balls in the water (or on land, for that matter) is also an activity for which leashes are not suited.
- Agility equipment in dog parks! Many dogs need mental stimulation, and agility is an excellent way to engage the minds of dog and owner. It's a great way to develop a closer bond with our dogs.
- More restaurants and cafes with outdoor patios that allow dogs. I would go out to eat more if I could find more places that welcome well-socialized dogs with their humans. Europe is very accommodating to dog owners, even inside cafes! Fremont is a local example of how welcoming a town can be to the canine resident population. I would love to see places on the Eastside who can adopt that level of dog-friendliness and inclusion.

I live in Bothell and so would like to see these areas as close to Bothell as possible.

Regards,

Doraine Raichart

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**From:** Debra  
**Sent:** Friday, June 07, 2013 12:14 PM  
**To:** Kirkland2035  
**Subject:** KIRKLAND 2035

Greetings!

As a relative newcomer to Kirkland (moved here in Dec 2011) we have been delighted with our new community and appreciate the great services we receive as residents of the city. Our encounters with the city have all been positive, except perhaps a parking ticket received downtown! ☐ We are interested in the vision and plans being made for the future of Kirkland and want to provide our input to the KIRKLAND2035 initiative.

I have a special interest in recreation facilities, having earned my B.S. in Recreation & Parks Mgt from the University of Oregon and as a former member and Chairperson of Parks & Recreation Advisory Boards in previous locations where I've lived, including Muscle Shoals AL and Bartlett TN. Over the years we have been very involved in recreation and athletic activities when raising our children. Now that we find ourselves as "empty-nesters", we still enjoy the parks for walking, picnicing and playing with our dogs. When we first arrived, we were disappointed that Kirkland had no off-leash areas where we could play with our dogs and found ourselves heading to Redmond's Marymoor park. However, since we have smaller dogs, we didn't feel comfortable there because it was too open and the dogs were not as behaved or controlled as we found at other dog parks. We were so happy to discover Jasper's Park - a new addition to the city and a wonderful place to take our dogs to play. We soon got involved with Jasper's by joining the Board and are advocates for the furry park patrons and their humans who enjoy Jasper's.

We would like to advocate for the creation of additional off-leash parks in the city of Kirkland. There are many dogs living in Kirkland who need a safe place to play with their owners. We hope that you will consider creating more parks for these citizens in the future. Another benefit of off-leash parks is that it reduces the dogs who may play off-leash in neighborhood parks illegally. These parks benefit the dogs, their people and the others in the community who are not so crazy about dogs.

Thanks for your time and for giving us a chance to share our vision for the future of Kirkland!

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Chuck & Debra Blagg

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**From:** Karla  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 08, 2013 10:05 AM  
**To:** Kirkland2035  
**Subject:** ideas for improving Kirkland as an All American City!

The KDOG park has been an incredible benefit to living in Kirkland. Please include more dog parks in your future plans...ones with trails, ones with water access and larger open areas. We use Jasper's park every day and have to drive quite a long way to get there..... allowing dogs at existing park during certain

hours would be a great way to go.....dogs walking, dog swimming and playing with their owners is just as important outdoor activity as others bike riding, trail riding and walking etc. for people to enjoy.

Please keep dogs and their owners in mind when making new plans and activities.

Thank you.

Karla Richardson

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**From:** Beth Rimmer  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 09, 2013 8:07 PM  
**To:** Kirkland2035  
**Subject:** Community Planning

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend this week's parks planning meeting or the community planning day, but did want to contribute the following ideas:

1. Peter Kirk Pool is amazing June-August. I would love to take my daughter there for toddler classes and do lap swim during the winter months if they could figure out a way to enclose the facility. I also imagine that this could provide additional revenues for the city in the off-months once the enclosure cost is paid off.

2. I've noticed several dead fish at Waverly park and they recently had the spill at the Marina park that made it unsafe to swim for a few weeks. Because not everyone is watching the news and few people know to check king county data to see if the bacteria/algae levels are safe for swimming (like this one for Waverly <http://green.kingcounty.gov/swimbeach/BeachData.aspx?locator=WAVRLYPSB&CurrentYear=true>) it would be awesome if we could provide this data to the people at the beach. For example, when the bacteria/algae levels are not safe for swimming, a sign could be posted to notify the public. Ideally, it would be a smart sign that is updated automatically with the data, so as not to burden park staff with this task, but since that could be cost prohibitive, it would be nice to at least have the park staff post a sign if the water algae/bacteria levels are unsafe for swimming and the expected date of when it will be safe again (like they do when they spray pesticides on the grass).

3. Heritage park could benefit from additional play areas for the children. One idea is to add a water play area (such as an interactive fountain, wet deck, splash pad, spray pad, or spray park). It doesn't have to take up a large footprint, just something to add another dimension of play for the kids. I don't think Kirkland has a water play area at this time, so it would add to the features of the parks. Some really fun water play features include the fill & dump buckets, shallow wading areas, and the surprise fountains that shoot water at varying heights into the air at varying intervals and locations for a few minutes at a time.

4. The highline in New York City was built on a historic freight rail track. It is now an amazing urban space that further enables the walkability of the city and provides more meeting spaces and opportunities for businesses. <http://www.thehighline.org/> I would recommend it as inspiration to the city planners/designers for the city/urban sections of the repurposed railroad track.

5. The marina is a beautiful park with great views, but it feels like Kirkland downtown can't capitalize on it with the parking lot separating the businesses from the pathway. And there really isn't sufficient parking for both park usage and shopping and dining. I suggest that planners consider replacing the parking lot and old buildings along the fringe of the parking lot with an entirely new structure that includes three floors of underground parking, and puts the patios of restaurants and stores along the edge of the park and provides more walking and charming accessibility for people shopping at these businesses. The businesses from the old building would be moved into the new building. The building could have multiple floors and be tiered to maximize the amount of outdoor patio space with a view. To help pay for this, it may help to expand the number of boats that can be moored at the marina (like palisades in Magnolia). To improve accessibility to this new shopping center, I recommend tearing down the buildings that line 85<sup>th</sup> – from Café Vita to Wendy's and beyond to create room for an additional car lane. The higher end businesses could be relocated to the new shopping center and eatery that lines the marina.

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**From:** Gwen Heib  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2013 3:26 PM  
**To:** Kirkland2035  
**Subject:** Off-Leash Dog Park

Hello,

I enjoy taking my dog to Jasper's Park and have volunteered as a Steward. But my German shepherd has a mania for water sports. Marymoor is quite a trip away and I really don't trust the stagnant water that the Sammamish Slough provides. So usually I have to go to the dog park on Mercer Island.

With all the waterfront that Kirkland enjoys, I believe that a place should be set aside for our dogs. O.O.Denny Park (now annexed) has been the unofficial dog water sport park for many, especially during the off-season when the entire park is deserted.

I urge the City to consider setting aside a waterfront area for our dogs and residents to use so we don't have to drive to another city to find room for this sport.

Sincerely,  
Gwen Heib

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2013-06-06  
kirkland2035@kirklandwa.gov

Regarding your Kirkland 2035 Planning:

Specific Ideas

1. Attract Landmark Theatres to take over an unused or underused movie theater in Kirkland. The Totem Lake theaters leap to mind but Park Place might be a candidate. The purpose is to bring art films to Kirkland along the lines of Landmark's Harvard Exit or Varsity Theater. Tacoma has The Grand Cinema, from which inspiration could be taken.



2. Attract organizations such as the Seattle Shakespeare Company to the Kirkland Performance Center. Perhaps you could establish eastside premiers at the KPC.

### General Ideas

According to the way I see it, there are two kinds of parks:

1. Activity Center
2. Tranquility Center

Kirkland should avoid the blunder made by King County parks in focusing primarily on activity centers. I stopped going to Marymoor Park because of the infernal model airplanes. I agree that children need a place to play and such places are activity centers. However, stressed people need quiet places where they can sit and gaze upon trees, birds, and whatever else nature has on offer. Since King County provides numerous activity centers, I encourage Kirkland to create tranquility centers.

Sincerely,  
Mark Sanders

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From: Jean Guth  
To: Kirkland 2035 Planning

Centrifuge for Bathing Suits at Peter Kirk pool: Will I see these in Peter Kirk pool this year? I first saw these available in pools in Seattle in 2010 and they worked great in drying your suit and keeping the changing area floor more pleasant. They are in the women's changing space at both Mounser and Colman outdoor pools. There is an incentive to use them since you take home a much dryer suit and they seemed sturdy and durable. Kids need to be tall enough to push down on the top to operate them so it self-selects to a more responsible group of kids using them (and they liked to use them). This would be a great addition to the crowded changing space in Peter Kirk and help keep the floor a lot less nasty. There is the continual question of where to put your wet suit while you change (on the hook it drips onto the benches, there are no hooks other than in the shower space or over the benches, lying on the bench it makes a wet puddle) and the floor can be quite wet at Peter Kirk at times. At Medgar Evers indoor pool, there is a single centrifuge for use on the pool deck but it is not nearly as handy as having it in the changing room, also the M.E. changing room are much larger there so it is always possible to find a dry spot to stand in and change.

Tot Lot Texture Addition: We saw pea gravel used as the ground material in a toddler play area with small sculptures in Boulder, CO and the kids really seemed to enjoy exploring the texture. Parents liked it because it did not get all over the kids like sand does. I wondered if it would not work well as the material under the turtle statue at the Tot Lot instead of wood chip. Going to park for this age group is about texture and is a sensory experience and this would be a nice complement and contrast to the sand pit and woodchip under the other structures. I don't know how pea gravel would do in our soggy weather or if the turtle needs to have a cushioning material under it.

Pesticides at the Tot Lot: We love the Tot Lot! I would love to see the Tot Lot become pesticide free. Since I have been going with my kiddo in early 2011, some chemical weed killers have been used along

the fencing because plants were visibly dead along there. The Tot Lot is next to the community garden that is pesticide free so this would be in keeping with that concern. Even those pesticides generally regarded as safe are reason for concern especially for this vulnerable age group:

- Children at the Tot Lot are likely to eat something that they have dropped/has fallen on the grass
- Children at the Tot Lot will use the fencing as support while walking and exploring
- Children at the Tot Lot are likely to be barefoot
- Children at the Tot Lot are more likely to put their hands in their mouth
- Many children at the Tot Lot are there daily eating snacks and lunch at the site
- There is no water at the Tot Lot to wash hands off before eating, etc.

Solutions might be, trying to go pesticide free or use a vinegar or something natural like that and seeing the consequence, or repositioning/raising the fencing by a few inches to allow for better clearance for edging tools.

Community Garden program: It is great to see the community garden program growing. McAuliffe Park seems like it would be a perfect setting for a collaboration with Seattle Tilth or a Tilth-like organization offering more classes so gardeners could have more success, leading to less turnover. Also with the new Kirkland chicken ordinance passed this past year, there is more interest in backyard hens, and Tilth offers a slate of established chicken classes. Tilth seems to have had a good experience with the program they have started a few years ago in Issaquah's Pickering farm. They also would provide and maintain inspirational gardens (their Wallingford garden is educational and fun to walk around) and support composting and rain gardens efforts, all focuses of Public Works. Tilth also provides educational signage at their sites with tips for all gardeners and could help put more community in the Kirkland community garden program and help it as it expands. We got our chickens through a Tilth chickens classes message board. Tilth also runs teacher training programs that would benefit the new focus on the environment that many local schools have now. 116<sup>th</sup> is a busy road and it appears Tilth-type classes are mostly offered at times that would not impact traffic. While such a partnership is not the money-maker that is foreseen in the McAuliffe Master Plan, these types of activities seem to blend well with the current and future interests of Kirkland residents.

Off Leash Hours, trails etc: Dog owners are probably your number one park user – in every weather and at all times of the year, they are using Kirkland's parks. Every dog owner wants to avoid conflict with other park users. Exercise for both dog owners and their dogs is part of the daily routine and the reason they come to parks. By creating legal windows and avenues for use such as off-leash hours until 9:30 or even 10AM and after 5:30, the city can mitigate illegal off leash activity and create a supportive group of dog owners who help to enforce the rules. Off-leash trails in some places will help to increase public safety – dog owners are the “right element” and off leash parks successfully discouraged criminal activity in Seattle's Belltown and at Mountlake Terrace's Aquatic center. Putting off leash trails in Edith Moulton, in Finn Hill and other selected sites will create a local resource that dog owners will use and help to maintain as proven by Jasper's Park. Even off leash hours at Juanita Beach might be considered to try to bring in a less “party” segment of users.

Indoor Aquatic Center: It would be so great to see one in Kirkland!

Spray Park: Especially without a pool, Kirkland should have a couple of these geographically distributed! It does not need to be the scale of Crossroads, which might create a “destination spray park”. The one at Grasslawn Park is fun too on much smaller scale. It would be nice if it could have one cool feature (I will put the large spinning globe at Crossroads in my “one cool feature” category). Location near a retail center is good and provide picnic tables. It would be a nice addition to the

playground at Peter Kirk Park or Juanita where it is near to restaurants. One of the things we like to do is use the shaded seating area near the spray park at Crossroads, one person goes to get food at the mall, and then you have a nice evening picnic of take-out while your kid runs around.

Drop-In Weekend Toddler Gyms: It would be nice to have this locally when it is a rainy Saturday morning and you are desperately looking for a place to let your toddler run loose. Seattle offers a number of locations with Saturday Drop-in Toddler Gyms for \$3, there is no staff involved in the operation other than a front desk taking money down the hall and it is pretty basic (bleachers for parents to sit on). The one we use in Seattle is held in a basketball court at the Rainier Community Center in Genesee. It has 2 very small bouncy houses and then just a big selection of cars, hula hoops, some legos, scooters, etc. It all packs up tightly in a single closet. We like this location because it is also walkable/stroller-able to restaurants in Columbia City so a location where you could walk to lunch after tiring your toddler (most toddlers don't appreciate being put in a car seat) would be a bonus. Maybe the large room in the Peter Kirk Community Center would work for a trial Saturday Drop In Toddler Gym? and it is walkable to eateries so supports those local retailers.

Kirkland Community Foundation – I keep thinking this might be an organization that could help many of the Kirkland wish list items.

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**From:** Tracy Doering (LCA)  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 08, 2013 7:27 PM  
**To:** Kirkland2035; Michael Cogle; Jennifer Schroder  
**Subject:** My vision for Kirkland 2035

Dear Kirkland City Planners: Thank you for this opportunity to share my voice! Here's what I think:

(1) Parks – we need more dog off-leash areas!:

We've enabled a wonderful recreational space for the community in Jasper's Dog Park – thank you! We are so fortunate to have the support of the City, community and an army of committed KDOG volunteers. We need more off-leash areas so that Kirkland residents can enjoy multiple forms of recreation with their dogs, and we need these areas to be closer to Kirkland residents' homes (in various neighborhoods), ideally so that many residents can walk to their neighborhood off-leash area and the carbon footprint is further reduced. I would love for our Kirkland to be like the cities of [Bend, OR](#) and [Bellingham](#) (just a few examples, but I could provide many more) that have multiple off-leash areas throughout their cities, mix of open spaces with off-leash trails, water access, grassy fields, and areas like Jasper's Dog Park, fully fenced with cedar ground cover.

We have some existing parks that are large enough (I'm thinking of Edith Moulton and Watershed Park) for full-time off-leash use in designated (likely fenced) areas and others where we could implement seasonal and/or limited off-leash hours. Waverly Beach Park would be a great site for limited hours off-leash use so that dogs could have beach access and get swimming/water retrieving exercise. Juanita Heights Park would also be a great site for limited hours off-leash use, and the Finn Hill neighborhood parks that are governed by King County, O.O. Denny and Big Finn Hill Park, would also be great sites for limited hours trails use and water access. In some of the smaller parks, I envision implementing some play spaces for the little

dogs. We're seeing increased usage of the small dog area at Jasper's Dog Park, and a small dog area really doesn't require allocation of much space.

I so hope that when we evaluate spaces and begin to plan new parks in Kirkland, we always ask the question as to multiple or mixed uses of those important shared resources so that the large percentage of families in Kirkland with dogs feel satisfied that their tax dollars are going to the recreation they want (and currently have to support through donations on top of their tax dollars). It's hard enough for some families with limited budgets to have and properly care for the dogs they dearly love, so we need to make better use of their tax dollars that are allocated to parks. Why should dog owners have to use so much of their own resources – time and energy to petition and lobby, monetary donations, time and energy to fundraise, build and maintain recreational spaces – when other taxpayers enjoy the family recreation they want through their tax dollars and without any or much less effort on their part? King County describes Marymoor Off-Leash Area as “Disneyland for dogs,” and while that is true and the county/Serve Our Dog Areas (SODA) have done a fantastic job in making Marymoor a “destination dog park,” the county has so many parks, but just one where dogs are allowed off leash. If you think about the percentage of dog owners living throughout King County who regularly (or would regularly) use dog parks as compared to mountain bikers (just one example in thinking about mountain bike improvements being made at Big Finn Hill Park), and the comparative percentage space for those recreational uses in King County parks, the county could do a better job overall in planning for mixed uses throughout the many parks and open spaces it governs. I am so hopeful that Kirkland will do better than that and implement more than one off-leash area for its population.

- (2) Cross-Kirkland Corridor: My vote is most definitely for a walking and biking trail allowing dogs on-leash, and I would jog and walk my dogs on that trail often! We frequently jog/walk the Burke Gilman and Sammamish River Trails, and I've often thought it would be so great to have a trail like that in Kirkland. The one complaint I have about the Burke Gilman and Sammamish River Trails is that it is not really relaxing jogging or walking on those trails because they are so heavily populated with cyclists. Pretty much every day I'm out there, I encounter at least a few irresponsible cyclists and even with responsible cyclists, I am always somewhat on edge, worried about my safety and that of my dogs. Tolt Pipeline Trail, however, is much more relaxing experience for us because there are a manageable number of mountain bikers and it's a pretty wide dirt/gravel trail – allowance for the joggers/walkers (including those with dogs on leash), horse riders, and mountain bikers all on one trail. I am all for mixed uses, but I wonder if two trails could be created or if there could be allocated uses for certain sections? In thinking about surrounding spaces just off the trail, if there is any way to implement off-leash recreation for dogs in that plan, that would be so wonderful, but as to the trail itself, I realize that safety considerations might not allow for off-leash recreation in any sections. A great mixed use example I'm thinking of is Victoria, B.C., where there is a lovely bike/walking trail with beautiful views that extends north from the city and there is a section of the trail where dogs are allowed off-leash (if I remember correctly, cyclists can't be in that section) as it connects to an off-leash field. I so enjoy visiting cities where I see lots of off-leash spaces, and the B.C. cities I've visited have done a wonderful job in allowing for off-leash trails in designated areas.
- (3) Juanita Drive: I'm not even sure how to comment on design improvements (would need to attend upcoming meetings and become educated), but my concern is probably more about irresponsible drivers. I often see police patrolling during commute hours, mostly in the

mornings, but rarely in the evenings (7-11 p.m.), when I've seen weaving cars on the road on a handful of occasions over the past few years. Just this week I had an evening encounter with an obviously impaired driver who ran a stop sign and pulled out in front of me onto Juanita Drive, cutting me off and causing me to slam on my brakes. This driver continued to speed at least 10 MPH over the speed limit and swerve all over the road in front of me. Thankfully, this driver stopped (surprisingly) at the light by Juanita Beach and I was able to get a license plate number, but this driver continued on, speeding through a red light at Juanita and 98<sup>th</sup>, where pedestrians were starting to cross (terrifying to witness). If a police officer had seen this, that driver most definitely would have been stopped, and unfortunately I didn't have my cell phone with me, so I had to drive back home to call 911. We've seen too many fatalities on Juanita Drive because of irresponsible drivers and at least one fatality from drunk driving in the past year -- it perplexes me that we don't have more police patrols along the entirety of Juanita Drive in the evenings, not just during commute hours or what most of us think of as the "DUI hours."

- (4) Totem Lake and Totem Lake Mall: I agree that a walking trail should be extended around the lake. I'm sure that I'm one of many to comment that the mall in its current state is a tragedy. We need a full-service shopping center much like our neighboring cities, and I would love to see this mall take on the charming look and feel of one like University Village. Except for Gilman Village in Issaquah, we don't really have any malls on the eastside that I'd classify as "charming," so I think adding a little more charm would be a great thing for the entire eastside and would obviously bring more revenue to our city. In my opinion, downtown Kirkland is a much more charming city than Bellevue or Redmond, and we really need to do outreach and try our hardest to make improvements in that area of Totem Lake because well, in its current state it takes away from the charm. I know there's only so much that can be done in economic downturn, but I think we should make this a priority and employ best efforts to make it happen.

Thank you, again, and thank you for all your hard work to make Kirkland a wonderful place to live! I hope my input has been helpful and that you continue to get lots of great feedback from others.

Sincerely,

Tracy Doering

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**From:** Denise Campbell  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 10:21 PM  
**To:** Michael Cogle  
**Subject:** Parks meeting follow up

Hi, Michael,

Thanks for hosting the meeting on Tuesday evening for neighborhood representatives to provide input on Park Planning. As promised, I have compiled the feedback received from our Market neighbors in the enclosed document. We had 16 unique responses and a few common themes emerged that I have summarized below. I have also highlighted what I believed to be key points in the enclosed document in an attempt to make it a little more manageable.

Spray/splash park

6 responses

Bike trails/connection/safety	5 responses
Rec center/indoor pool	4 responses
Basketball court/indoor or out	3 responses
More Lake activities	3 responses

We really appreciate you and your team taking time to meet with neighbors and hear our ideas and feedback and certainly value everything the Parks department does for our community. Good luck with the 2035 planning process!

Denise & Janis  
Market Neighborhood

#### MARKET NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY INPUT ON PARKS

1) Rails to Trails...if/when they resolve the lawsuit, turning our old rail line into a bike trail will be a lovely addition to Kirkland, and they should consider a way to safely connect biking families from the trail to the downtown area.

2) What could they do better...closing the bathrooms at our parks over winter is a real bummer, the parks are really used year round.

I value the all of our parks and the pool. I would love to see Juanita beach park improve its kids play structure, possibly add a spray fountain park.

Kirkland desperately needs a proper, full sized basketball court where kids can play a game of pick up. Crestwoods court is awful - badly maintained with horrible hoops and rims- and the downtown court is well used, but only a half court.

There is a huge emerging youth basketball population here in Kirkland and nowhere for them to play! An indoor court would be even better, but that's expensive.

Also- would love a connected trail system!

I'd like to see more activities on the lake... opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, sailing classes/rentals and a rowing club for all ages. I would love to see our youth have these opportunities to use our waterfront and to learn to enjoy the various watersports.

What I would like to see is a small splash area, zero depth fountain with rubber/cork surface with timed arc fountains the kids can run through in the summer at Heritage park. You see these circular arc fountains for kids with no standing water (it all falls to the sides in small grates) at resort places like Beaches in Jamaica for example. No one can drown or hurt themselves since it is a non-skid surface. Nice feature for hot days in July and Aug. and safer for little kids that can't swim than having them down at Marina park. You only need one feature, not a splash park. It would be fun and much better than the silly rock area down near the tennis courts that they installed. It would be turned off during the cold months, only on during the summer. Maybe June/July/Aug. would be appropriate. So many places like Ballard/Crossroads have small spray parks. It is time for Kirkland to catch up with just one small feature!

Parents of toddlers would love this. They could setup picnic blankets for lunch or dinner near the fountain at Heritage Park and the kids could run through the fountain with no worries about their toddler walking into the water like exists at Houghton, Marina Park, and Waverly Park.

Also, kids want a feature like this. I have seen so many little kids hit their head on concrete as they slip in the fountain at Marina park. Whoever designed it did not think about how slippery angled concrete

would be. It is an unsafe water feature in our parks. The concrete base should be leveled with flat drain grates.

It is crazy that we don't have a pool with a slide, yet we have a diving board. They could install a slide, and take turns with whether the diving board is open vs. the water slide, since both need to feed into deep water.

I love the idea of the Lynwood Recreation Center - large indoor pool with lazy river, splash area, and large water slides. Don't know if a budget could be coddled together to accomplish a similar facility, but I would rather have a pool we could visit year round than an outdoor one.

1. Peter Kirk Pool is amazing June-August. I would love to take my daughter there for toddler classes and do lap swim during the winter months if they could figure out a way to enclose the facility. I also imagine that this could provide additional revenues for the city in the off-months once the enclosure cost is paid off.

2. I've noticed several dead fish at Waverly park and they recently had the spill at the Marina park that made it unsafe to swim for a few weeks. Because not everyone is watching the news and few people know to check king county data to see if the bacteria/algae levels are safe for swimming (like this one for Waverly

<http://green.kingcounty.gov/swimbeach/BeachData.aspx?locator=WAVRLYPSB&CurrentYear=true> ) it would be awesome if we could provide this data to the people at the beach . For example, when the bacteria/algae levels are not safe for swimming, a sign could be posted to notify the public. Ideally, it would be a smart sign that is updated automatically with the data, so as not to burden park staff with this task, but since that could be cost prohibitive, it would be nice to at least have the park staff post a sign if the water algae/bacteria levels are unsafe for swimming and the expected date of when it will be safe again (like they do when they spray pesticides on the grass).

3. Heritage park could benefit from additional play areas for the children. One idea is to add a water play area (such as an interactive fountain, wet deck, splash pad, spray pad, or spray park). It doesn't have to take up a large footprint, just something to add another dimension of play for the kids. I don't think Kirkland has a water play area at this time, so it would add to the features of the parks.

4. The highline in New York City was built on a historic freight rail track. It is now an amazing urban space that further enables the walkability of the city and provides more meeting spaces and opportunities for businesses. <http://www.thehighline.org/> I would recommend it as inspiration to the city planners/designers for the urban sections of the repurposed railroad track .

I too love your ideas (*above*). The little water park idea is similar to many in Australia and would be simply fantastic if we had our own here in Kirkland.

I would like to see a safer connecting pedestrian route between Juanita Park (the one with the bridge) and Juanita Beach Park...currently bike riders, pedestrians, etc. have to swing out against flow into very busy traffic (or through parking lot of Michael's) to reach Juanita Beach Park.

I love the idea of a spray park at heritage! That would be amazing.

As a mother of 2 under 5 years old I find myself in the summer driving over to greenlake to go to the wading pool because there is nothing really similar here on the east side that is free. Also, I know there are "spray parks" here in the bellevue area, but in Tacoma they call them spray grounds and they, in my opinion, had a great layout of spray and what not. Something like that in heritage park or Juanita beach park would be amazing!

More "active" parks with features that draw people and provide something to do. Especially needed for the older youth (basketball courts, walls for lacrosse or tennis – wall ball, climbing walls, par 3 golf, ultimate Frisbee, mountain biking trails). Also would love to see an indoor rec center with pool, courts, exercise studio, etc.

We need more recreational opportunities on the water. It is such a fabulous feature of Kirkland and is underutilized/promoted by the city. Summer camps to include kayaking, paddleboard, sailing. Kayak rentals and water "trail" maps with points of interest along Kirkland shores. Swim lessons held in Lake Washington.

*(last entry was in response to questions as follows)*

### **Visioning/Values/Goals**

What do you value about Kirkland Parks & Recreation?

- Parks are great for exercise, socializing, appreciating wildlife, and enjoying peaceful relaxation
- Summer recreation programs are nice for young kids; we haven't tried them for teens or adults, yet.

Are today's program offerings and parks sufficient to keep your neighborhood healthy/active/engaged? What, if anything is missing or needed?

- We love the parks around West of Market (Juanita Bay, Waverly, Heritage, Marina Park); we also enjoy others around Kirkland (Watershed and others). We are blessed to have so many great parks in Kirkland.

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**From:** Marta Collins

**Sent:** Sunday, May 26, 2013 11:17 AM

**To:** Kirkland2035

**Subject:** Kirkland 2035

To Kirkland City Planners,

Please continue to support and provide off-leash areas for dog owners. It enhances the quality of life for so many Kirkland residents. I would like to suggest the park across the street from Juanita Beach Park be designated as an off-leash dog park. There are areas of the park that are not utilized and when Juanita Beach was closed it became a gathering area for dog owners to meet and socialize while our pets frolicked, because so few people use that park, as far as I know there were never any complaints? Dog owners are very active in the community and we are a passionate group. Thank you for all your support of our newest park and keep the momentum going.

Marta Collins

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**From:** Joy

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 6:54 PM

**To:** Kirkland2035

**Subject:** Keep Kirkland off leash dog areas

Kirkland's off leash dog areas are the best, the best managed I have ever used. "The extent K Dogs goes to is tremendous." Nicest pets nicest people. Dogs are the most popular pet. "Kirkland should keep and the off-leash dog areas it has and plan for more." It's a good city, desirable, that plans for people and their dogs".--Joy(ce) Miller



